

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape **SUCCESS STORY**

By: Lehigh Gap Nature Center
Lgnc.org

Lehigh Valley Conservation Diversity Initiative (2012)

SUMMARY

Diversity is an area of conservation strategy that is currently lacking in the Lehigh Valley. This program focuses on bringing in leaders from minority communities to help bridge the gap between the broader diverse population and the environmental resources of the region. This initiative recruited, trained, and advised leaders on outdoor programs that are relevant and interesting to the range of interests that exist in the Lehigh Valley.



CHALLENGE

This program specifically recruited Latinos, a population that is the primary minority community in the Lehigh Valley. While many children from urban communities and minority neighborhoods may be exposed to the outdoors through school field trips, they have little opportunity to continue that engagement on their own. By identifying local leaders and focusing on greenways and parks in their communities, the applicability of programming is expanded.

FUNDING

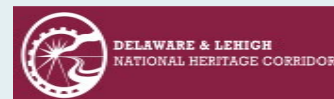
Grant Award:
\$5,000

Match:
\$11,940

Total Project Cost:
\$16,940

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Lehigh Valley Coalition for Kids



SOLUTION

By advertising through local groups and institutions, this program recruited Latino families and experienced naturalists fluent in Spanish to participate. By training community leaders, it was possible to build leadership capacity in the community and support the efforts of local residents, which may have ripple effects later on. Utilizing these leaders, participants took family oriented field trips, bird and nature walks, education programming at Beltzville State Park, and visited Lehigh Gap Nature Center.

RESULTS

- 6 local community leaders recruited and retained
- Field trips held along D&L Trail and within city parks
- 25 participants in Trexler Park bird walk
- 2 programs at Beltzville State Park delivered
- Visited Lehigh Gap Nature Center, Bake Oven Knob, and Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge

Contact



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